

Serial No.: 10/721,068
Atty. Docket No.: P69278US0

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 25, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and by this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1-5 and added claims 6-19. Claims 6-19 are pending in the application. Claims 6 and 14 are independent.

The Examiner objected to the abstract as containing informalities. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the abstract, and have further provided a clean copy incorporating the changes on a separate sheet attached hereto. Informalities noted in the specification have also been corrected, including the absence of headings. Finally, proposed drawing changes have been submitted to set forth in the drawings all of the claimed elements.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,667,589 to Mailänder et al. ("Mailänder"). Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner rejected claims 2-5 as being unpatentable over Mailänder in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,972,167 to Hayasaka et al. ("Hayasaka").

With the cancellation of claims 1-5, the rejections are technically moot. However, with respect to new claims 6-19, Applicants provide the following remarks.

As set forth in new claims 6 and 14, which are supported by original claim 1 and the specification at page 3, line 26 to

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page 4, line 12, the present invention is directed to a paste unit for a bottom guide device for gluing star seal bottom bags or bottom warps. The paste unit includes a glue reservoir or glue source, a metering roller in contact with the glue reservoir or glue source, a glue application roller adjacent the metering roller, a making roller in contact with the glue application roller which transfers glue from the glue application roller to the bottom warps or the star seal bottoms, and drive mechanisms assigned to the rollers. The glue reservoir and the glue source are interchangeable such that the metering roller may be sequentially or serially connected to each of these glue elements. With the glue reservoir in place, the paste unit is operable as a closed glue application system, while if the glue source, e.g., nozzle, is in place, the paste unit is operable as an open glue application system. This is not shown or suggested by Mailänder.

Mailänder is directed to an entirely different technical field, being related to an apparatus for supplying a varnishing cylinder of a sheet varnishing machine with a varnish film. Such a machine is more comparable with a printing machine than with the paste unit for a bottom guide device for star seal bottom bags, as is claimed by the present invention.

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Even if there was some way of interpreting Mailänder to be of comparable technology, in the varnishing device of Mailänder the varnish basin 17 is arranged to be horizontal and open on the top side, and therefore is not capable of operating as a closed system. Furthermore, it is not possible for Mailänder to work without the varnish basin. Thus, Mailänder does not teach or suggest a vertically arranged glue reservoir for closed system operation, nor the removal of the glue reservoir in order to attach a glue source/glue nozzle in place thereof for open system operation. In fact, there is no disclosure of a glue nozzle in Mailänder.

The present invention provides significant advantages over the prior art, combining the benefits of a glue reservoir and a glue source nozzle through the interchangeability of these components. Depending upon the type of glue desired in the bottom guide device, either the glue reservoir or the glue nozzle may be used to transfer the glue to the application roller in the most effective way.

A person of ordinary skill in the art simply would not look to Mailänder to meet the need for multiple glue-type application capability. Even with consideration of the varnishing device of Mailänder, having first and second scrapper blades

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substantially submerged in the varnish basin formed by the horizontally arranged rollers, a person of ordinary skill would, at most, end up with a paste unit for a bottom guide device which is horizontally arranged and permanently equipped with a glue reservoir. The task performed by the present invention of applying variable kinds of glue through interchangeable glue elements would not be performed by such a Mailänder-based device.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 6 and 14 are patentable over Mailänder, whether taken alone or in combination with Hayasaka. Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 6 and 14 are therefore requested.

Claims 7-13 and 15-19 are also in condition for allowance as claims properly dependent on an allowable base claim and for the subject matter contained therein. Support for claims 7-13 and 15-19 is provided in the specification at least as follows: claims 7, 11, 12, 18 and 19 (page 3, lines 1-6; page 4, lines 1-5 and 9-18; original claim 2); claims 8-10 (page 3, lines 8-15; original claims 3-5); claims 13 and 17 (page 4, line 22 to page 5, line 10); claims 15 and 16 (throughout).

With the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments,

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the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

With this Amendment, Applicants have submitted a marked-up drawing sheet with proposed drawing changes. Specifically, in accordance with the last paragraph on page 4 of the specification, and as supported by original claims 3 and 4, Applicants have added the --drive mechanism 14-- and --power source 15-- to Figures 3 and 4. Favorable consideration and approval of these drawing changes is requested.